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GOVERNMENT Mass. Senate passes FY '21 budget plan



**SPORTS** Palmer wins

against Monson

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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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#### **HEALTH**



The new Baystate Wing ER entrance. Soon, Baystate practices in Ludlow and Monson will move to the Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer.

# Baystate promises 'one-stop shopping' healthcare after consolidation

**By Michael Harrison** mharrison@turley.com

REGION — Over the coming months, Baystate Primary Care offices in Ludlow and Monson will be transitioning to Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, which hospital officials envision as becoming something like a mall of healthcare services for the entire area.

"We are on target for a fiscal

providing stability and operational Gray said. efficiency as well as an improved patient experience," Molly Gray, president and chief administrative officer for the Baystate Health Eastern Region, said.

With the goal of operating "fewer, but more robust, 'brick and mortar' practices," the not-forprofit healthcare system is planning for its Monson staff "coming over in mid-December" to Palmer, year '21 consolidation of Monson followed by the Ludlow Primary and Ludlow practices to Palmer, Care staff sometime in January,

The move is a direct response to the Community Health Needs Assessment conducted in 2019. Gray said residents in Ludlow and Monson will only have to travel five and eight miles, respectively, for comprehensive care after their

local practices relocate. Based on a new model of hoagnostics, the enhanced Baystate one-stop shopping for people and Wing is the system's answer to what it sees as an unsustainable

way of offering care. Especially when dynamics such as the COVID-19 pandemic can crush the capacity of a small practice.

"There are small, one-to-two provider practices and those are very fragile right now," Gray said.

"If one provider is out – has an emergency or is sick – it's difficult to keep the doors open. The conlistic care and quick access to disole of services [in Palmer] means

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#### **GIVING BACK**

# For Demore's, holiday outreach has become habit-forming



Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowder Co-owners of Demore's Automotive, Jay Demore and Michelle Demore, and their team, provided dozens of meals for local families in need for Thanksgiving and plan to help others for Christmas.

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Demore's Automotive has launched several outreach efforts to make sure residents in their community

remain safe and secure. In the latest one, they set out to help those in need for Thanksgiving. Office administrator JoAnn Demore said they have been busy preparing Thanksgiving meals and will be filling up co-owner Jay Demore's truck and delivering food to Palmer Food Share.

A similar effort is now underway to help residents in need for Christmas,

coming from Hamels Catering, out reach out to see if they need help," single prepared meals that we're go-

ing to be delivering on the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week," JoAnn Demore said.

"It's more geared toward the elderly people who are home and can't really get out of their homes. We'll also donate those same meals to the senior center."

Recently, they assembled meal boxes, including turkeys and ingredients for side dishes, that can be cooked at home for Thanksgiving dinner. These boxes were distributed to families in need in Palmer and surrounding areas, such as Monson, Ware and other local towns.

Meals for several dozen families were delivered.

"We also have some local connections that are kind of giving us "We're having catered meals some ideas of some families to, to in Holyoke, that's going to provide JoAnn said before the holiday week.

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#### **MILITARY**

# Annual care package drive supports local veterans

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — On a slightly sunny afternoon, family and friends who have a relative serving in the military came together Saturday to participate in the sixth annual Monson Military Care Package

This event began after Monson resident and care package drive committee founder Karen King, who said she "was brought up, respectful of people serving," encountered a social media post encouraging support of local veterans.

Each year, the committee comes to-

gether and puts together packages full of socks, snacks and other essential items to ship off to service members serving all over the world.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee could not hold the drive at a prominent location, such as Monson High School, which is where they held it last year. Instead of canceling it, King

decided to host the event at her house so that the committee members and other willing participants could put together packages for the 32 military recipients



**Karen King** 

King said she chose not to reach out to the local businesses that have supported the project

from Monson.

in the past, once again due to the coronavirus. To her surprise though, those businesses, including Echo Hill Orchards and Tree House Brewery, along with other residents, helped the committee raise over \$5,000. Monson Savings Bank, as it has

from the beginning, is covering the cost of shipping the packages, which include \$160 VISA gift cards.

"What we found over the years, is a

lot of these people involved are the parents of those serving and they've been really sad, because of COVID-19, they

can't go visit them," said King. "It just adds another layer. This is wonderful, because it's cathartic for them, because they get to talk to people and see that people are showing their loved ones support.'

Recipients, such as Kyle Craven, who is stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, but happened to be present at the event, said he's grateful for the community's support.

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Participants and supporters showed up for the sixth annual Monson Military Care Package Drive Saturday.

#### BRING TOYS, FOOD

# Come out to 'Stuff the Cruiser' on Dec. 5

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — Some traditional outreach has been disrupted this year because of COVID-19, but that doesn't mean the spirit of giving isn't alive and well in town.

Lori Chiacchia organized "Santa's Elves of Palmer" and with the help of the friends she recruited - Emily Skoczylas and Lorena Baker - is throwing a Stuff the Cruiser fundraiser 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 5 outside of the Palmer Police Department, located on 4417 Main Street. Donations of toys and food for those in need are encouraged. All donations will go to Santa's Elves of Palmer, and food will go to Palmer Food Share. Baker is ad-

ministering the the food collection. The upcoming toy drive is already on pace to bring joy to 75

Chiacchia has plenty of empathy for those in need.

"My love for children is very deep," said Chiacchia.

"I was in this situation when I was a single mom and didn't have anybody to help. That's the main reason as to why Im doing it, because I was in those shoes and know how it feels and to picture a child not having a Christmas just breaks my heart."

She also said it will be joyful of her to see parents be appreciative when they receive the gifts they can give their children. Chiacchia says she feels blessed each time she and Skoczylas receive a donation.

"The Palmer community has been absolutely amazing," said Chiacchia. "When somebody needs help, everybody pulls together and



Some of the toys already collected by Santa's Elves of Palmer to help local kids in need have a merrier

we get the help that is needed for

Christmas.

Skoczylas, who is also the

manager of the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force, shared similar sentiments, on the importance of participating in this upcoming toy and food drive.

"It's really exciting and great to have the police department get involved with community events, such as this," said Skoczylas.

She also said she has been working through the task force to provide her a list of families in need.

"All they had to do was supply the age, gender and a couple of interests," said Skoczylas. "I've also had community members reach out to me and say 'I'd like to nominate a family going through domestic violence. This year, we can't provide for them, but we'd still like to do something for them, can you help?"

Nov. 28 is the last day donations will be accepted. For more information, visit the Santa's Elves of Palmer Facebook page.

#### **HOLIDAY**

# Ho, ho...huh?!



Turley Publications photo by Michael Harrison

HOLLAND - Now that Halloween is way in the rearview and Christmas is up ahead, the 12-foot tall skeleton that towers over the fence at the home of Jeremiah Brewer and Kara Wassmer, who live at the corner of Sturbridge and Brimfield roads, has donned his Santa outfit. You can see him here decorating his tree.

## Main Street Tavern hosting toy drive fundraiser



Courtesy photo

Just some of the many toys that have been collected for the Monson toy drive.

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – With Christmas around the corner and more families in need of assistance than ever, friends Dené Ackerman and Kristine Duval decided to launch a toy drive to benefit local residents. A Dec. 3 fundraiser is planned to help get the effort over the top.

The event will be held 4-10 p.m., at Main Street Tavern, located on 218 Main Street in Monson. On that same day, the raffle they are also currently hosting will end as well.

Duval said they created baskets of gift cards and other items from local businesses, including auto repair shops, restaurants, and more.

"The value of each prize is \$75," said Duval.

The two are also gathering gifts for local senior citizens who otherwise might be forgotten this Christmas.

"I definitely had a new twist this year, trying to focus on a lot on the businesses, because they suffered a lot this year. So, I help me so much," said Ackerman.

put a spin on it, where any money I generate, I turn right back into the town, with gift certificates for all the local businesses and things like that. It's a fundraiser that initially began

for kids, but I took it to a different level this year. I have the wonderful businesses giving me stuff and I'm doing by best to turn in back around for them."

Al Widlan's Service Connection and Monson Italian Pizzeria are among the area businesses and services Duval credited.

Regarding the Toy Drive itself, Duval said typically, the town would hold a toy drive, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, could not host the annual event and was only going to offer gift cards.

'For me I don't know how many 5-yearolds want gift cards and I understand that their hands are tied, because of COVID," said Duval. Ackerman shared similar senti-

"When I came up with this idea to have a fundraiser, I didn't realize that it would



Gifts for senior citizens have been collected to distribute to those in Monson who otherwise could be overlooked.

"After a year of complete chaos, this toy and senior drive reminded me of how Monson people can come together and achieve something for the greater good. It's been a humbling experience and amazing to be a

After the fundraiser on Dec. 3, Duval said they plan to get the collected items organized and begin distributing them to local families. She also said she will be doing a run with the Meals On Wheels program handled by the Monson Council on Aging to also deliver gift baskets they plan on putting

Anyone interested in contributing and donating, whether it's with a toy or money, can reach out to the co-organizers through the Monson "Helping Hands" Facebook page. The deadline to submit a donation is

#### **BAYSTATE** I from page 1

families. If you need an X-ray, specialists, cardio, pulmonary, or gastric surgery – it's all there. This is all based on what the market need is."

Which is where last year's assess-

Baystate tailored its consolidation plan to feedback from local residents and interviews with local healthcare providers, Gray said. According to the findings, in addition to the types of care facilities like Baystate Wing traditionalv offers - think cardio, orthopedic, and oncology units – the new, enhanced center will include more behavioral care and other services it believes will best serve its commu-

"Substance use and mental health were identified as the most urgent health needs/problems impacting the area, as identified in local and regional interviews and focus groups and survey data of school districts in the Baystate Wing service area under the auspices of the Quaboag Hills Drug Free Communities project," the report states.

The urgency mirrors what communities in the Commonwealth and across the country have been facing for years.

"Substance use disorders, specifically opioid use, were of particular concern," according to the report.

"Opioid use disorder, which has been declared a public health emergency in Massachusetts, is impacting residents with high opioid related hospitalization rates in Ware and Palmer. Tobacco use remains high with an estimated 16-21% of adults that smoke. The rates of youth vaping nicotine-based products is a major concern; over 25% of 12th grade students in the Quaboag Hills region say that they vaped in the past 30 days. There was overwhelming consensus among focus group participants and health care providers about the need for increased education across all sectors to reduce the stigma associated with mental health and substance

use, as well as the need for expanded treatment options, particularly treatment for people with co-morbidity."

If residents in Ludlow and Monson have any reservations about the change, Gray predicts that will change once they experience the new facility.

"We are on our way to creating a robust primary care and specialty ambulatory center," she said.

"Our aim is to have expanded hours, more parking, same-day appointments and convenience in every way. A contemporary model of care. This is really exciting and really creating some enthusiasm in our teams, who have been through a lot this year. I am confident that in our near future, the Baystate Health and Wellness Center Palmer will be the practice of choice for the Eastern Region community."

Speaking of enduring a tough year, Gray, a trained nurse herself, wants to remind residents of what health professionals have been preaching for the better part of the year: As this next COVID-19 wave meets the traditional flu season, following guidelines not only protects individuals and families, but all those they come in contact with. That means:

Thorough and frequent hand

- Self-isolation
- Wearing a mask in public
- Get a flu shot

"We're worried a lot about an increase in cases following the holidays," Gray said. "Have a safe, Zoom celebration this year so you can enjoy a nice, normal one with family and friends next vear."

For more health and safety tips, go to mass health, com. To read Baystate's community assessment report and strategic action plan, or for more information about the system, go to baystatehealth.org.

#### Grant deadline extended to Dec. 14

The Monson Cultural Council has extended the deadline to apply for community-orientated projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. Local organizations, schools, and individuals have until Dec.

14 to apply.

These grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and festivals and must take place between Jan. 1 and Dec,

31, 2021. Monson priorities can be found online at mass-culture.org/Monson along with the link to the online application.

### **DEADLINE**

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays.

We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



#### The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

## Grant aimed at preventing overdoes deaths

REGION — A rapid response team of addiction specialists and medical professionals will soon be dispatched to any household in Hampden County where an overdose is reported, thanks to a grant secured by the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

The \$900,000 grant is from the U.S. Department of Justice Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP). The money will help fund a Hampden County Addiction Task Force Program Coordinator position and the launch of the Rapid Response and Connection Program. The Hampden County Sheriff's Department was the lead applicant for the grant, obtained on behalf of HCAT. which is comprised of the sheriff's department, the Hampden District Attorney's Office,

HCAT, launched by District Attorney Anthony Gulluni's office in 2016, is a collaboration of community resources, law enforcement, health care institutions, service providers, schools and community coalitions, individuals and families whose goal is to focus on a countywide approach to address drug and alcohol addictions, overdose, and prevention.

Thanks to the grant, within 24-72 hours of an overdose in Hampden County, HCAT's Rapid Response Team's evidence-based approach will present the treatment options and wrap-around services needed for those struggling with addiction and their

The COVID-19 Pandemic has complicated life for everybody, but even more so for some people struggling with substance use disorder. With reporting of addiction-related issues on the rise, including relapse and sometime fatal overdoses, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi says the team will bridge a critical gap in services at a time when it is needed the most.

"While all the focus has been on the COVID-19 Pandemic, we've seen a dramatic rise in the number of people hitting a dangerous point with their addic-



#### **Correction**

The caption under the photo that accompanied a story about the toy and senior gift drive in Monson misidentified one of the people in the photo, which is reprinted here. The caption should have identified Dené Ackerman (left) and Kristine Duval. Accuracy is our No. 1 priority. Also, the toy drive is just for the Monson area. If you see an error in our newspaper, please email editor Michael Harrison at mharrison@turley.com.

Corrections

gladly correct factual errors that

appear in this paper. Corrections

or clarifications will always ap-

pear on Page 2 or 3. To request

a correction, send information to

Editor at mharrison@turley.com,

or call 283-8393, extension 236.

Corrections may also be request-

ed in writing at: Journal Register,

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# Mass Central Rail Trail feasibility study released

State considers it an important trail

> By Eileen Kennedy Staff writer

REGION – Eventually, the Mass Central Rail Trail will run from Northampton to Boston, and MassDOT has released a feasibility plan detailing what is needed to complete the 68.5 mile section. It runs from the end of the Norwotttuck Rail Trail in Belchertown to the I-495 area at the Hudson/Berlin town line, and the state says it is a priority to complete. When the entire trail is built out it will run for 104 miles.

The study focuses on the 68.5 miles that run between Belchertown and Hudson, of which17.5 miles already exist and 51 miles need to be built out. The state has rated the difficulty level of a number of pieces that still need work, with 20.2 miles rated moderately difficult to implement and 22.4 miles rated as highly difficult. Nine new bridges would be necessary to complete the trail, according to the state.

This study divides the MCRT analysis into three segments. The first one goes from the easternmost part of the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Belchertown to the Massachusetts Central Rail Road corridor at the east bank of the Swift River in Bondsville, a village of Palmer. The second segment goes from the Swift River in Bondsville to the Ware River in Barre. The third section goes from Glenwood Road in Rutland to Stone Road in Berlin, which is just east of the I-495 underpass, Berlin/Hudson town line.

Within those segments are highly detailed notes about what obstacles are in the way, including whether it is a physical problem, such as a missing bridge over a river, or an ownership problem as some pieces are in private hands. It also documents where it may be necessary to leave the trail for short pieces.

**Economics** "It's terrific to have this study, and to continue to draw attention to this huge resource in our community," said East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw, who was asked by the state to review the plan before it was released.

The EQLT has most recently developed a half-mile of the trail in Ware, near the trust's Frohloff farm on Church Street. It was built as an accessible trail so it is wide and covered in crushed stone. The plan is to connect it to the trust's already existing portions in New Braintree and Hardwick. The trust is also working on a trail from the farm to



File photo by Melina Bourdeau A feasibility study to complete the Mass Central Rail Trail was recently released by MassDOT, showing how a stretch between Belchertown and Hudson/Berlin town line can be finished. This is a sign in the New Braintree section of an already existing section of the trail.

Grenville Park, which is also on Church Street in Ware.

Henshaw said more fully developing the trail between towns, such as Ware and Hardwick, can help residents travel to local jobs and shopping. She also said it provides a safe place for people to enjoy nature and to get exercise without

Craig Della Penna, who has been involved in the trail for a couple of decades, said developing trails always benefits the communities it runs through. He is a Northampton Realtor who specializes in selling houses close to rail trails.

When trail projects come through the result is economic development," he said. "Local small businesses benefit and will locate there, and it's more lively." He pointed to Gilbertville's Rose 32 bakery and restaurant as the type of business that could be attracted to locating along the trail. Part of the existing trail runs between Gilbertville and New Braintree. Rail trails help make communities more viable and liveable, he said. The state used the Gilbertville-Ware covered bridge as one of the sights on the trail during their recent conference last week. Della Penna also runs a website about the MCRT at www.masscentralrailtrail. org/, which has old and new maps.

In fact, the economic vibrancy the trails bring to communities has been part of the reason the state has put an emphasis on creating trails, Della Penna said. The state now has a Trails Committee made up of multiple agencies and they meet every few weeks, he said.

History

The Massachusetts Central Railroad originally ran west from Boston for 104 miles to Northampton, and the state wants to see it use as much of the original rail corridor as possible. It was once possible to get on a train in Boston's North Station and travel to Northampton's



The Warren Wright Road parking area for the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Belchertown. The state recently released a feasibility report for a portion of the Mass Central Rail Trail, running from Belchertown to the Hudson/Berlin town line.

ment of Conservation & Recreation's Commonwealth Connections, and various local and regional plans, according

At last week's virtual 2020 Moving Together conference, MassDOT's John Bechard described it as a "critical backbone" in creating shared use trails in the state, and said it was the top rail trail priority in the state. He described the feasibility study as a way of kicking the completion of the trail into higher gear, and determining what needs to be done to make it a reality.

The study details approximately 55 miles of undeveloped segments along the MCRR corridor are currently in public, private or conservation ownership. About 33 miles of this trail have already been constructed as off-road, multi-use

An additional 22 miles of former railroad corridor are owned by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and leased by DCR between Coburn Road in Berlin and Linden Street in Waltham, according to the study. This 22-mile corridor is in varying stages of planning, design and construction by the municipalities, DCR and Eversource En-



#### The Norwottuck Rail Trail in Belchertown.

Union Station, although Paul Jahnige, with the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation said at a MassDOT conference this week the railroad was abandoned in the early 1900s. A hurricane in 1938 severely damaged the line, and over time some of the line could not even be seen.

**Importance** 

Trails in general, and the MCRT specifically, has been identified as a high priority for the commonwealth's trail and greenway system, according to the report. It involves MassDOT's statewide Bike and Pedestrian Plans, the Departergy to develop the 10-foot wide, paved

'This trail will knit together slowly over time," Della Penna said. "It may take a generation."

The full feasibility report can be found at https://www.mass.gov/lists/ mass-central-rail-trail-feasibility. Comments and suggestions from the public will be taken through Dec. 1 at https:// tinyurl.com/y6j9r7bp.

## Gifts, cards for senior citizens needed

citizens this year? Home Sweet Home Senior Living has a plan and they could use your help.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this holiday season is difficult for everyone to nav-

their families as they normally would. Katie Krupka, senior living advisor at Home Sweet Home, is collecting small gifts and cards through Dec. 13 to distribute to local seniors who

Want to help spread some igate, but especially for older could use a little extra holiday and crafts, picture frames - any-cially distanced drop-off or

Some gift suggestions: grocery store or other gift cards, books, puzzles, scarfs, gloves, blanket, socks, slippers, snacks, anything handmade, soaps, hand towels, jewelry, arts

If you are donating a warped gift, there should be an indication if it is intended to be gender-specific.

Krupka can arrange a so-

donated gifts.

For more information, email her at katie@homesweethomesla.com or call 413-



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We are so sorry but our May Scrabble Night and our May **Basket Raffle will** be postponed. At this time we are uncertain as to when they will be rescheduled.

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# Viewpoints

# **Small** businesses need you more than ever now

t the end of the day, any business depends on a favorable bottom line. It's the number that ultimately decides if a business owner can keep that "open" sign on the door. But that doesn't mean all business is transactional. That's especially true for small

Local businesses have always been a cornerstone of their communities. For them, it's not just about selling goods or services. It's about being a good neighbor. Supporting local causes. Lending expertise in schools and places of worship. Restaurants and cafes aren't just places to eat. It's where people bond, celebrate, and collaborate.

Most people first experience the life-changing thrill of earning a wage for an honest day's work at a small shop.

And many future entrepreneurs started learning about how business works and finding their inspiration at those first jobs at a small, local business.

When there's a tragedy or a crisis, you can bet your bottom dollar local business owners are there helping any way they can.

That's why it's more important than ever to support them in their time of need.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, and small businesses have absorbed unprecedented challenges. "Small Business Saturday" may sound like a cute catch phrase, but the intent runs so much deeper. While we hope everyone shops locally as often as possible, this Saturday is an opportunity to remind those local business owners how much you appreciate them. Many have just managed to hang on during the pandemic and any day you can help them exceed expectations provides the confidence they need to keep going.

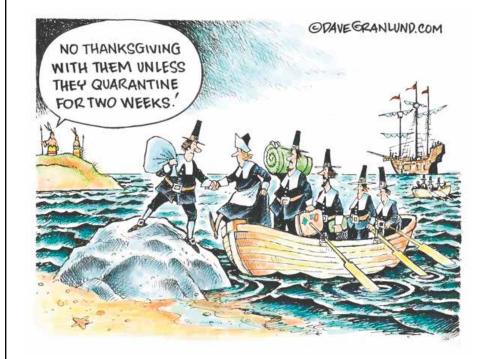
A show of support is particularly important now. An expected next wave of coronavirus infections could again ripple through small business communities across the U.S.

It was reported in the New York Times on Sunday that "sluggish retail sales growth in October, rising claims for unemployment insurance last week and a multi week decline in employment and hours worked at small businesses nationwide have increased the odds that the economy could tip back into recession."

Not that it's inevitable. If we all do our part by following the guidelines designed to stop the spread of infection, that's another way to support small businesses. A healthy community is a healthy customer base.

Across our pages, you'll see the names of our advertising partners and we urge you to give them your business. And there are so many others in your area. Not all of them have brick and mortar shops. Many small business, from artisans to professional service providers, are based locally and operating virtually. Please seek them all out. Ask your friends and neighbors for recommendations. Check social

You all have a ton of civic and community pride. Supporting small businesses is another chance to show it and we hope you take every opportunity.



IN THE

**GARDEN** 

Roberta McQuaid

# It's time to shop for a gardener in your life

My kids have been busy making it is an indispensable tool. Simply roll out their Christmas wish lists. Over the years I have saved the "rough drafts." You know, the list that doesn't get sent to

Santa. It's a walk down Memory Lane to look these over. Just the change in their handwriting is enough to make a Momma cry, never mind all the requests for baby dolls and princess this or that! Those days are over, sniffle, sniffle...but today's pastime got me thinking about my favorite gift recommendations for the gardener in your life. Let's start with tools!

Hands down, my favorite tool is the spade. It's similar to

a short handled shovel with an ever so slightly tapered, yet straight rectangular blade. I have an antique spade with a worn wooden handle that belonged to my dad. I use it to "edge" shrub beds or other gardens to keep them distinct from the lawn. A spade is also great for dividing overgrown perennials. Simply use the blade to chop the plant into manageable pieces. It is likewise indispensable for moving or removing trees and shrubs, cutting through tough roots in no time

If I had to name a runner up, it would be the scuffle hoe. Get your friend one of these and with 20 minutes of "aerobic exercise" three times a week, their garden will be weed free! A gentle back and forth action slices the weeds at the soil line without turning the soil over too much or bringing new seeds to light.

One tool that I couldn't live without come harvest time are my garden shears. They look very much like scissors with shorter blades. Useful as an all around pruner, this tool is surprisingly sharp, lightweight, and comfortable in your hands even after lots of work. I only wish they weren't black; I need to spray paint the handles neon orange so that I don't keep losing them amongst the plant ma-

Once the weather breaks your favorite gardener can get a jump start on the growing season with a gift of IRT mulch. For crops such as pumpkins, melons, eggplant, peppers and other heat-lovers,

the black plastic-like mulch two weeks before planting time to warm the soil. When ready to plant, simply cut and "X"

into the mulch and position the seedling into the soil. Plants generally grow faster and will ripen sooner than those growing without the mulch. In addition, they suffer next to nil competition from weeds.

Even though it will be while until we can get our hands into the soil again, many gardeners will start off the New Year with a seed catalog or two in hand. To be able to grow the great variety of tasty veggies

and colorful flowers seen on the glossy pages of these pamphlets, we really must learn to start our own transplants from seed. Then, the sky is really the limit!

Without the right amount of light and warmth, however, indoor seed starting can be discouraging. Often times transplants end up so leggy that they collapse. Or, worse yet, seeds rot in the soil without ever even germinating. Spare your loved one the heartbreak and get them a heated mat and a shop light with fluorescent bulbs. The mat will provide warmth at the root zone to encourage speedy, even germination and the light, when positioned just inches above the growing seedlings, will promote sturdy,

Search out local garden centers and nurseries for these and other innovative gardening implements for your friends and family this holiday season. Two mail order companies that carry the some of the products I mentioned include Johnny's Selected Seeds in Winslow, Maine (Johnnyseeds.com) and Fedco Seeds in Waterville Maine (fedcoseeds.com).

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the sub-

### Why we shouldn't give up on bipartisanship, even now

By Betsy de Parry Guest columnist

In the wake of the 2020 election, many Americans are wondering whether bipartisanship is even pos-

For the millions suffering from cancer and other debilitating diseases, I hope so. Because 18 years ago, when I faced a deadly diagnosis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, bipartisanship laid the foundation that gave me my life back.

The treatment that saved me resulted from years of research that would have amounted to nothing without the law authored by two senators, Indiana Democrat Birch Bayh and Kansas Republican Bob Dole, in 1980.

Known as the Bayh-Dole Act, this law allows universities, small businesses and nonprofit organizations to own the early-stage inventions they make in the course of their research using federal grants. These institutions can then license their intellectual property to private firms, which have the resources and experience to turn promising ideas into widely available medicines.

Prior to Bayh-Dole, the government retained ownership of intellectual property rights, and only occasionally translated them into real-world products for patient use. At the time the law passed, fewer than 5% of these government-owned inventions were licensed for commercial production.

Fortunately, Senators Bayh and Dole set partisanship aside to fix this logjam. Their landmark legislation has helped create a legal framework for private firms to pioneer more than 200 groundbreaking medical innovations -- including the one that saved my life. When I was diagnosed with an incurable form of NHL in January 2002, my only treatment option at the time was chemotherapy. It was known to slow the disease's progression but it would inevitably return.

But chemotherapy didn't slow the progression of my disease. A few months into treatment -- and in the nick of time -- a new type of treatment for NHL hit the market: radioimmunotherapy. Unlike chemotherapy, which attacks both cancerous and healthy cells and requires up to eight treatments, RIT targets cancerous cells only, and takes only one or two injections.

In September 2002, I received two doses of the cutting-edge RIT drug Zevalin and have been in remission and healthy ever since.

A crucial part of Zevalin's therapeutic regimen is the infusion of the drug rituximab, a medication designed to reduce the number of cancerous B cells in the blood. Using grants from the National Institutes of Health, researchers at Stanford University unearthed this B cell technology in the 1970s and 1980s.

This discovery may never have become a commercially viable cancer treatment had those researchers not left Stanford and formed Biotherapy Systems in 1985 to further develop and commercialize their B cell tech-

Finally, in 1997, the FDA approved their drug rituximab under the brand name Rituxan.

I'm far from the only patient who owes her life to the drug innovation ecosystem Bayh-Dole supports. Under this law, private companies have been able to bring patients hundreds of treatments -- including the epilepsy drug Lyrica, the ovarian and breast cancer therapy Taxol, and the multiple sclerosis medication

Patients owe a debt of gratitude to senators Bayh and Dole, who recognized that empowering private drug companies to turn government-sponsored research into usable medicines and treatments is not a partisan issue. Their bill found its way through Congress at a divided moment, when Ronald Reagan had just won election but Jimmy Carter was still in office. Their willingness to work together in the service of public health and patients like me should inspire us today.

Betsy de Parry is a patient advocate and the author

of Adventures in Cancer Land.

#### **Election letters** to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

#### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election. as well as a question-and-answer voters quide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political will reporters cover political rallies or

publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

#### **Letters to** the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to: **The Journal Register** Letter to the Editor 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

#### HISTORY MATTERS

# Great history book picks for children from trains to JFK

By John Grimaldi Guest columnist

At precisely high noon, on Nov. 18, 1883, the railroad system introduced America to its four new zones: Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific; until then, villages, towns, and cities from coast to coast, counted on the sun to set their clocks, and based time on local estimates. People started their day at sunrise, assembled for meals, pushed through chores and retired at dusk.

But the railroads required a reliable standard to maintain uniform timetables; prior to the decree, arrivals and departures confused travelers, and created chaos for commerce.

The change was embraced enthusiastically, but it wasn't until 1918 that Congress passed the Standard Time Act, which transferred oversight of the time zone boundaries to the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1966, the authority was re-assigned to the Department of Transportation.

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "The Great Railroad Revolution: The History of Trains in America" by Christian Wolmar.

On Sept. 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War, but it took the British nearly three months to complete their retreat. The last of the troops departed New York on Nov. 25, which coincidentally, was Thanksgiving, giving the former colonists-turned-Americans, another reason to gloat.





It took the British soldiers almost three months to complete their retreat back to England in 1783.



Canaveral in Florida.

American System Now, a history website, published an article that included an excerpt from "a woman who had witnessed" the celebrations that day as a girl. She wrote: "We had been accustomed for a long time to military display in all the finish and finery of garrison life; the troops just leaving us were as if equipped for show, and with their scarlet uniforms and burnished arms, made a brilliant display; the troops that marched in, on the contrary, were illclad and weather beaten, and made a forlorn appearance; but then they were our troops, and as I looked at them and thought upon all they had done and suffered for us, my heart and my eyes were full, and I admired and gloried in them the more, because they were weather beaten and forlorn."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "My Brother Sam Is Dead" by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier.

President Lyndon Johnson renamed Cape Canaveral in honor of the late John F. Kennedy on Nov. 28, 1963, five days after his assassination. Two years earlier, President Kennedy had dared America's rocket scientists to put a man on the moon within a decadeand it was accomplished, triumphantly--on July 20, 1969, when Astronaut Neil Armstrong landed--and walked-on the moon.

The Cape's role in America's efforts to conquer space--or what Star Trek fans call "The Last Frontier," was begun in 1947, when it became a missile-testing range. The plan was to put a satellite in orbit to sync with the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year celebrations. But according to Space. com, "the Army ended up sending the first U.S. satellite, Explorer 1, into space on Jan. 31, 1958, on a modified Jupiter-C rocket called Juno 1".

Meanwhile, in 1971, Cape Kennedy reverted to its original name, Cape Canaveral, but the main attraction remained the "Kennedy Space Center."

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Moonport: A History of Apollo Launch Facilities and Operations" by Charles D. Benson and William Faherty.

History Matters is a column written by the Grateful American Book Prize, and is designed to show American children their past is prelude to their future. For more information go to http://gratefulamericanbookprize.com/.

#### The Journal Register

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# Mass. Senate's budget has more money for health, housing, childcare

BOSTON —The Massachusetts State Senate on last week unanimously passed a \$46 billion budget for fiscal year 2021 after adding \$36.1 million in targeted investments after two days of delib-

Passed with bipartisan support, the budget addresses sectors impacted by COVID-19, including early education and childcare, food security, housing supports, and public health.

"I appreciate the patience of my communities and the many organizations and individuals that are helped with this budget," Sen. Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), a member of Senate Committee on Ways & Means, said.

"It is good we waited and did not do the budget during the summer when we would have had to make drastic cuts. I am very pleased that funding that assists everyone of the towns in my senate district was included in this budget and look forward to assisting during this time of recovery."

Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland) said, "With a second surge of COVID-19 upon us, we must do everything we can to shore up critical resources for those most in need so that we can begin to build towards an equitable recovery. This unprecedented budget is a testament to the challenges we face as a Commonwealth, but I am confident Massachusetts will emerge stronger and more resilient

The budget funds MassHealth at a total of \$18.2 billion to maintain critical access to affordable health care coverage for over 1.9 million people and includes targeted investments to maintain and expand access to mental health care, while strengthening public health infrastructure at the local, state and regional level to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The senate's budget holds harmless Chapter 70 funding in a manner consistent with the agreement reached between the Senate, House and Administration in July by providing \$5.283 billion, an increase of \$107.6 million over FY'20.

Gobi's office said this addi- school districts for retional level of investment will allow all school districts to maintain foundation spending levels while accounting for enrollment and inflation changes. The budget also includes \$345 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker, reimbursing school districts for the cost of educating students with disabilities at the statutorily required 75% reimbursement rate. In addition to ensuring stability for the state's K12 population, the Senate's budget takes steps to invest in childcare providers and higher education institutions—both of which are critically important to the state's economy and recovery in midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The senate's budget recommends a total of \$46 billion in spending, a 5.5% increase over the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) General Appropriations Act. This spending recommendation is based on a revised tax revenue estimate of \$27.592 billion, which provides for \$3.558 billion less in available revenue than the original consensus revenue estimate originally agreed upon in January 2020. To close this anticipated revenue shortfall, the FY21 budget includes \$1.5 billion from the Stabilization Fund, ensuring a majority of the Stabilization Fund balance remains for future years; \$1.38 billion in available federal supports; and more than \$400 million in new revenue initiatives. Among those initiatives, the budget includes provisions such as accelerated sales tax collection and a new fee structure for Transportation Network Companies. The budget also avoids drastic budget cuts while leaving the Commonwealth in a sound fiscal position moving

#### **Education investments include:**

- \$5.283 billion for Chapter 70 education funding
- \$345 million for the Special **Education Circuit Breaker**
- \$115 million to reimburse public school districts for costs incurred when students leave to attend charter schools
  - \$82.2 million to reimburse

gional school transportation costs

• \$560.4 million for the University of Massachusetts, \$308 million for the fifteen community colleges, and \$285.5 million for the nine state universities; and \$2 million for grants offered through

the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative to support high school students with intellectual disabilities ages 18-22 with access to higher education opportunities

• \$40 million for a new reserve to cover parent fees for families receiving subsidized childcare for the remainder of FY 21

• \$25 million for a new Early Education and Care Workforce and COVID-19 Supports Reserve to provide classroom stabilization grants, incentive pay for providers, and support for increased operational costs due to COVID-19

• \$15 million for grants to the Head Start program to maintain access to early education services for low-income families

• \$5 million for the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative to expand access to preschool in underserved areas

 \$6.4M for Youth-At-Risk Matching grants, including support for YWCAs, YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs, after adding \$5M on

\$3.0 million for Rural School Aid, after adding \$1.5M on the floor • \$1.5 million for the Civics

#### **Health investments include:**

Education Trust Fund

- \$500.3 million for Adult Support Services, including assisted outpatient programming and comprehensive care coordination among health care providers
- \$163.6 million for a range of substance abuse treatment and intervention services
- \$94.5 million for children's mental health services
- \$45.2 million for domestic violence prevention services

• \$35.4 million for early inter-

vention services, to ensure pare Massachusetts workers. supports are accessible and available to infants and young toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities • \$20 million for

funding to support expanded access to mental health services, including \$10M for the Behavioral Health, Outreach, Access

Anne Gobi and Support Trust Fund and \$10M for a new inpatient mental health acute care beds grant program to expand access to critical mental health

- \$17.5 million for Family Resource Centers to meet increased demand for services
- \$10 million for grants to support local boards of health to combat COVID-19
- \$2.5 million for a new matching funds grant program to assist communities making public health-oriented adjustments to their public safety systems, including targeted reforms such as jail diversion programs, de-escalation training and professionals, and behavioral health staffing and supports
- \$1.7 million for the State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) program to support a more effective local and regional public health delivery system
- \$1 million for a COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan program, focused on equitable vaccine distri-

In addition to these health care investments, the senate's budget seeks to expand access to care. It includes provisions that prohibit insurers from denying coverage for mental health services and primary care services solely because they were delivered on the same day in the same facility. This important measure will remove a significant financial barrier to the integration of primary care and mental health. The budget, through the amendment process, also includes provisions that further expand reproductive health care options.

The plan creates and invests in programs to educate, train and pre-

#### **Opportunity** investments include:

- \$46.4 million for a new Economic Planning and Response Program, including grants and loans to small businesses, small business technical assistance and capital improvement supports
- \$40.6 million for adult basic education services to improve access to skills necessary to join the
- \$20 million for summer jobs and work-readiness training for atrisk youth
- \$15 million for a Community Empowerment and Reinvestment grant program to provide economic supports to communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system
- \$10 million for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund to connect unemployed and under-employed workers with higher paying jobs
- \$6 million for Regional Economic Development Organizations to support economic growth in all regions of the state
- \$5 million for Community Foundations to provide emergency economic relief to historically underserved populations across the Commonwealth
- \$3 million for the Secure Jobs Connect program, providing job placement resources and assistance for homeless individuals
- \$2 million for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Part-

According to gobi's office, access to affordable housing, which has taken on new urgency for many during the COVID-19 pandemic, is a key Senate priority for recovery.

#### **Housing investments include:**

- \$180.7 million for Emergency Assistance Family Shelters
- \$135 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)
- \$50 million for Residential Assistance for Families in Transi-

tion (RAFT), as well as emergency changes to the RAFT program to increase the maximum amount of rental assistance that a household can receive from \$4,000 to \$10,000 and allow eligible households facing a housing crisis to access both RAFT and HomeBASE.

- \$53.4 million for assistance for homeless individuals
- \$27.2 million for the Home-BASE diversion and rapid re-housing programs
- \$12.5 million for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP), which provides rental assistance to people with disabilities, and \$2.5 million for grants to improve or create accessible affordable housing units
- \$10.5 million for housing vouchers for Department of Mental Health (DMH) clients to transition into housing and community-based
- \$4.75 million for the Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs)
- \$3.9 million for the Home and Healthy for Good re-housing and supportive services program, including \$250,000 for homeless LGBTQ+ youth
- \$2.5 million for the Office of Public Collaboration to support housing dispute mediation efforts across the Commonwealth
- \$1.3 million for the Tenancy Preservation Program

Concerned about ensuring the state's residents most at risk of eviction in the middle of a pandemic are kept safe and secure in their homes, the budget also includes a provision that would simplify the application process for RAFT and protect the credit rating of individuals who face eviction due to COVID-19 by sealing eviction records. This proposal provides additional protections and resources to tenants suffering a COVID-19-related financial hardship, as well as stability as they await short-term emergency rental

Food insecurity has become one of the most prevalent consequences of the COVID-19 pandem-

BUDGET | page 10

# At E. Jones, the student gets ready to take the reins

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – There comes a time in one's life, when they can start closing one chapter and begin the next one to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

This transition is officially taking place at investment company Edwards Jones in Palmer, with longtime financial advisor Paul Dansereau beginning the process of turning the business over to Hunter E. Boody.

Dansereau began his career in 2001 with the Town of Palmer being a "natural home" for him because he grew up and was educated in the community, he said. The main thing Dansereau said he

the business evolved. "When I first started in this business, it was more about investments, which stocks own, mutual funds, and a little bit

enjoyed about Edward Jones was how

of planning," said Dansereau. "As time went on, our industry has changed more towards financial services and planning, so we've seen a whole evolution come through. The most enjoyable part, quite frankly, is investments. We've

been doing that for over 20 years." He also said knowing he played a part in helping someone plan for a successful retirement is particularly satisfy-

And it never gets dull/ There's "always more to learn," Dansereau said.

"I think we got better over a period of time," he said.

"My clients, as we probably learned together, on how social security, estate planning, talking about taxes [works], the more I learned, the more I think I helped to create a better plan for them."

After managing millions of dollars, helping clients grow wealth and pouring his heart and soul into his business, Dansereau feels it's a good time to move on and retire alongside his wife, former River East School-To-Career, Inc. Director Loretta Dansereau.

He has complete confidence that Boody will not only be a good caretaker, but will help the business prosper and grow.

Boody, who moved to the area from Raleigh,



Staff photos by Jonah Snowden Hunter Boody has been working closely with his mentor Paul Dansereau since moving from Raleigh, N.C. in 2019 in in about two years will take over the busi-

a great mentor. He also said that so far, it's been "very fun to interact" with the "There is a big trust," said Boody. "With a trust, they feel comfortable

N.C., in 2019, said Dansereau has been

to talk, as well as to look at the big financial picture for not just them but with the next generation." Dansereau's retirement won't be official until March of 2022. In the meantime, "I'm to be constantly learning and

growing to help me as well as the clients in the community," Boody said. The Edward Jones office is located on 1448 N. Main Street, Palmer. For more information on services or for any other questions, call 413-289-1875.

#### **GRANT I** from page 3

tions," Sheriff Cocchi said. "The isolation and financial instability has led to a mental health crisis, and an unfortunate part of that is people turning to drugs and alcohol to numb the pain. But it only complicates their personal turmoil after the momentary relief, and many are hitting the wall. This effort will save lives and families by offering support and wrap-around services at a

time when it is needed most." In addition to funding the

HCAT coordinator position and enabling the Rapid Response Team, the grant will help roll out a county-wide database system to document overdose incidents, high-risk individuals, and subsequent follow-up actions all in real time.

"Aligning and mobilizing resources county-wide to com-

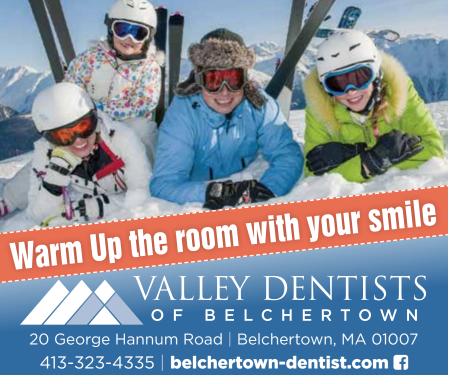
bat substance use and addiction disorders saves lives," said District Attorney Anthony Gulluni. "As the leading law enforcement organizations in Hampden County, we continue to strengthen our community based partnerships in our efforts to prevent opioid related deaths, reduce harm, and prevent needless loss for families."

Overall, the new HCAT ini-

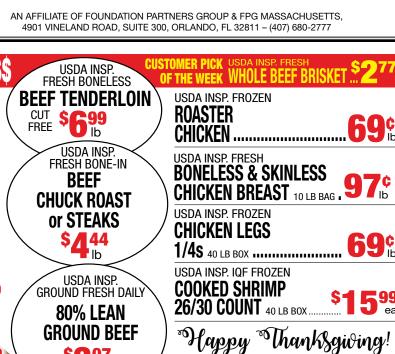
tiative will provide a data-driven, integrated response to the residents who are the most vulnerable and at-risk for opioid and substance use-related incidents while improving community safety and overall well-being. This comes at a time when in the last three years, there has been a 112% increase in opioid-related deaths in Hampden County alone.











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# Schools

# Monson returns to remote learning as COVID cases surge

By Michael Harrison mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — Nearly two months to the day since resuming in-school classes, a surge in COVID-19 cases in town forced an abrupt return to all-remote learning until at least Dec. 7.

Sports will be on hold until January at the earliest.

The return date is tentative and could be moved back depending on the number of positive cases in Monson leading up to Dec. 7. Health experts nationwide are holding their breath and hoping most people stayed home for Thanksgiving or at least kept gatherings small. Otherwise, they said, the holiday could become a super spreader that results in even higher

rates of confirmed COVID-19 cas-

Monson Schools Supt. Cheryl Clarke made the decision to halt in-person classes Nov. 18 after 26 new cases were reported in just over a week. She consulted with Monson Schools Nurse Lead Karen Fedora and notified parents and staff ahead of that evening's School Committee meeting.

Students in Monson were the last in the county to be allowed back in the classroom. The beginning of a planned phase-in had to be pushed back in mid-September after a late wave of positive COVID-19 tests broke over the

Having to make the call to resume remote only classes was an emotional one. Clarke wept when

> she told Monson School Committee Chair Jeff Lord about her decision.

"This whole thing has been an emoroller tional coaster for everyone," Clarke said Saturday.

"To have the kids back in the building has been just so wonderful. They love being there and teachers are so happy to have their kids back, so it's

red [high-risk category] and has so many new cases. It's very emotional to be in the halls the next day and see them empty. I love the kids and it was nice for everybody to have a little bit of normalcy. Then in one day everything changes.'

Clarke and other officials acknowledged at last week's school committee meeting that based on new guidance metrics handed down by Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker, Monson is technically not in the "red" category. But some officials have questioned if those metrics are applicable to smaller towns in the Commonwealth.

Regardless of the metrics, Clarke, Lord, and other officials said they are not going to split

"Our No. 1 goal is to keep the kids safe," Lord said.

"That's the most important thing in my opinion and I will not tolerate any casualties because I'm in a hurry to get kids back in school."

That echos what Clark said during the school committee meeting and again in an interview this past weekend.

"It was a difficult decision in some ways, but not in other ways," she said at the meeting.

'Because, you know, that's a lot of cases and the safety of our kids and our staff, that trumps everything. I'm sorry, but it does it. And so it's disconcerting. It's discouraging. But we'll be back. We're not giving up. We'll be back. So we hope to see everybody on Dec. 7."



A scene from the safe-distance Monson schools car parade. Late last week, Monson Schools Supt. Cheryl Clarke made the call to return to remote learning after a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in town and ahead of the expected next wave of COVID-19 infections.

Lord said he realizes school officials might have to withstand the wrath of parents who demand in-school classes despite the pandemic. But he remains resolute.

"I understand people need to get back to work and high-need kids get a lot out of going to school [in-person], but no kid is expendable to me," he said.

"And it's not just our kids. We ned to keep our team safe, too. No one signed up to make life or death decisions, but that's what we're doing. We don't take what the politicians tell us what to do at face value. The commissioner of education told us that staying three feet apart is safe and we said we're staying

longterm [in-school] delays will effect our kids, but let's face it: I'd rather someone be a little behind scholastically then six feet under." Clarke mentioned during the meeting that the CDC is concerned that while COVID-19 cases are exploding nationally, remote learning

[the numbers] every week and do

what's in the best interests of our

kids and staff. I'm fearful of how

could help blunt the spread. "They have kind of pulled back on their pushing for this in-person school and saying that it lists in-person learning as a high risk," Clarke said. "So I don't know what's going to happen. There's politics involved, and so we're just trying to keep everybody on track on this end and hope for the best. And we will be back. We will be

Both Clarke and Lord said Monson educators are better prepared than they were at the beginhad to go to remote learning on the fly back in March. That includes teachers finding new ways to keep students engaged and equipping staff with the technology they need to conduct classes from home, if

Students who don't have mobile devices at home have been supplied with iPads, Clarke said at the meeting. The district's business staff will also be working remotely and were able to take their office phones home, connect them to their personal routers and receive all calls made to the office.

"In March, we didn't have a lot of time to prepare for it," Lord said on Friday. "Our teachers have been coming up with plans to keep kids engaged and are a heck of a lot better at it now than back then. Compared to other school districts, Monson is leagues ahead of anyone

During the public comment portion of the meeting, the lone person who asked to speak expressed gratitude to the school committee.

"I just wanted to thank everyone on the school committee for taking action and keeping our kids safe," resident Scott Harris said.

Before the end of the meeting, Lord made a plea to residents.

"I urge the community to please, please stick together here. Listen to Dr. Clarke's advice. Refrain from family gatherings," he

"I mean, the scientific experts are saying this week, this coming holiday, is going to make this virus just mushroom. I know Thanksgiving is important. It's not as important as being here for this Thanksgiving as it is being there for next Thanksgiving. So please, everyone, stay safe. And again, Dr. Clark and the whole administrative leadership team, kudos for you."



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#### SOCCER



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Jake Beaupre tries to slip a pass.

"Joey and Brandyn have been

definitely the difference makers for us



Brandyn Costa tries to overcome the pressure from Monson.

# Panthers take final game against rivals

By Tim Peterson

Sports Correspondent

PALMER— Joe Chartier and Brandyn Costa are two of the five se-

The duo led the Panthers to a 3-1

our leaders all season long. They were niors for Palmer boys soccer.

in today's game," said Panthers head coach Troy Remillard. "Monson has victory over archrival Monson on a been our biggest rival in boys' soccer

Nov. 12.



Noah Martinson tries to get around an opponent.

gloomy afternoon at Duke Field on for as long as I can remember. Every game that we play against them is normally close. They do have some talented players and good coaches

During the past three seasons, Palmer holds a 4-1-1 edge against Monson on the soccer pitch.

In their final high school ap-

pearance versus the Mustangs, Costa scored a pair of goals and added an assist, while Chartier scored Palmer's other goal.

The other three Panthers seniors, who were scheduled to wrap-up their high school careers with another

PANTHERS | page 8



Ryan DeSantis tries to quickly head up the field.

#### SOCCER

# Pioneers shut out at home



Ethan Farrar gets a pass away before the pressure comes.



Riley Sanderson starts to move up Kiernan Moe attempts to fake his the field with the ball.



opponent with some footwork.



Josh Blaine fights to keep the ball.



Nick Hein receives and tries to settle the ball.

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional High School boys soccer team was defeated 8-0 by rival Monson on Nov. 10, one of

the final regular season games for the Pioneers. Goalies Austin Tocci and Rich Gula combined for nine saves in goal.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

**Evan Hershowitz** 

oall for Palmer

### Indoor track could move to bubble season

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

REGION - Could indoor track become outdoor track this year?

Indoor track coaches around the region are looking at the possibility of that if a different solution is not found to hold indoor track when the winter season starts in January.

Indoor track facilities are few and far between in Western Massachusetts.

The teams in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference have typically used Smith College over the past several years.

Several teams would each participate in one of two meets on Friday evenings. There would be a meet at 3:45 p.m. and a second meet at 6:45 p.m. Schools would be counted with certain schools matching up their results individ-

Smith College, like many college campuses, are not open for high schools to use for track meets. Springfield College, which has



Indoor track is usually held at Smith College in Northampton, but that facility is unavailable this winter due to the pandemic.

indoor track facilities, is also not available due to the pandemic.

With the Fall 2 or bubble season set to happen in February, coaches are discussing the idea of doing indoor track at the various artificial turf facilities available

throughout the region.

"If the weather cooperates, we would be able to hold meets outside and would not have to rent a place like Smith College," said

TRACK | page 2

#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

# Winter season postponed until January

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In a bit of a switch from the normal decision-making processes filtering down, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference made a pre-emptive decision about the upcoming winter

In Western Massachusetts, there will be no winter sports action before Jan. 14. Practices cannot begin before Jan. 4.

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton, a member of the PVIAC Board of Directors, said he believes a similar decision will be made by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association in the coming weeks.

"We looked at a number of things as it related to this decision," said Stratton.

The top factor was learning from what schools and communities

went through in the fall season. "A number of towns and their schools had to go in front of their

school committees and the respective boards of health," said Stratton. "And those boards only meet once or twice a month, so it took some times for towns to get the various approvals needed.'

Taking into account a full season will not be played, Stratton said delaying the season to January was the easiest step to take.

Just like the fall season, teams will play in geographic bubbles and will only be able to get about 10 to 12 games at the most played.

Taking into account the holiday breaks as well as the winter weather, the winter season is usually the longest, starting in early December and ending in mid-March.

Stratton said other factors played into making the decision even easier to make. He said the current spike in COVID-19 cases made it easier for the PVIAC to take a break. The break will keep more students at home and reduce exposure to the virus as the country prepares for possible distribution of a vaccine.

Stratton said the PVIAC expects the winter season to go from Jan. 14 to Feb. 21. He said one other proposal had the season going from Dec. 14 to Feb. 12, but said the point about towns needing time to get approvals prevailed.

Sports specific guidelines are scheduled to be made public soon, and local town boards and school committee members would have to review them and see if they want their schools to participate.

As of now, basketball and hockey are supposed to be played while wrestling will not be allowed to have any school-to-school competition.

Stratton said while news of a vaccine continues to circulate, the PVIAC and MIAA are continuing to prepare for seasons as if the pandemic is still in effect.

"We are preparing for the conditions that currently exist until we have information that would cause us to do otherwise," said Stratton.

WINTER | page 2

# Full 'Bubbleville' schedule released

UNCASVILLE, Conn. - The Naismith be headlined by several preseason ranked Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Gazelle Group today announced the complete schedule of matchups for the season-opening event known as "Bubbleville." Games will be played Nov. 25 to Dec. 5 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn.

Bubbleville will house several events relocated and reimagined due to COVID-19 and provides a controlled environment with teams and event staff adhering to tribal, government, and NCAA health and safety protocols and testing requirements. At this time, all games are expected to be played without fans in attendance.

The event will feature 45 games in 11 days, showcasing 40 NCAA Division I men's and women's teams. The schedule will

squads including #2 Baylor, #3 Villanova, #4 Virginia, #18 Arizona State and #20 Oregon for the men and #3 UConn, #5 Louisville and #6 Mississippi State for the women. Select games will be available on ESPN networks. All games airing on ESPN networks will also be available on the ESPN App, accessible on computers, smartphones, tablets and connected devices to fans who receive their video subscription from an affiliated provider. All other games will be streamed via FloHoops. The schedule to date is available in the attached PDF, along with broadcast information.

In the coming days, additional games featuring Oregon and Missouri will be added to the schedule on December 2 and 3. Each

school will play two games, including one game against each other.

Events taking place in Bubbleville include the Roman Legends Classic presented by Old Trapper, the 2K Empire Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project presented by Continental Tire, the HomeLight Classic, the Air Force Reserve Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament, the Air Force Reserve Basketball Hall of Fame Women's Challenge, the Jimmy V Women's Classic and several pods and single game contests developed specifically for Bubbleville.

To learn more, visit https://www. hoophall.com/events/bubbleville or follow @hoophall #Bubbleville on Twitter and In-



#### **PANTHERS** I from page 7

home match against Amherst on Tuesday afternoon, are Kristian Kotowski, Trent Thiphavong, and Ryan DeSantis.

David Pagan watches his dribble.

"We're definitely going to miss our five seniors," Remillard said. "All of them are starters and they're very good soccer players. I wish we could've played a few more games, but we were fortunate to even be playing soccer this year with everything that's going on."

The home victory over the Mustangs improved the Panthers overall season record to 4-2-1.

It was the final game of the season for Monson (4-3-2), which lost to Lenox in the Western Mass. Division 4 finals last November.

The Mustangs also have five seniors on their roster. They are Scottie Watson, Connor Santos, Gabe Zippin, Cole Johnson, and Luke Hedspeth.

"I'm glad that we were able to complete our season, especially for our senior class. All of them are great kids, who have been playing for our soccer program for a while now," said Monson head coach Peter Beaupre. "It

was definitely a different type of a season, but we got it done. I'm hoping that the basketball teams and the spring sports teams are able to have a season just like we

Gabe Messier attempts a dive for the ball.

Santos and Zippin, who missed the final few games of the season with an ACL injury, will be playing a sport other than soccer at the collegiate level.

Zippin will be staying fairly close to his hometown. He'll be a member of the AIC men's lacrosse team in the spring of 2022. His older sister, Tamra, is currently a goalkeeper for the AIC women's soccer team. Santos will be making the longer trip to Southern Worcester Country where he'll be playing baseball at Nichols College, which is located

in Dudley. The first meeting of the season between Monson and Palmer, which was held at Moriarty Field on October 9, ended in a

1-1 draw. Both teams scored a goal during the first ten minutes of last Thursday's match.

The Mustangs went ahead 1-0 during the seventh minute following an indirect kick from the top of the box. Freshman Colin Beaupre tapped the ball to junior Noah Martinson, who lined a shot into the right corner of the net past Palmer junior goalie Gabe Messier (8 saves).

The home team scored the equalizer about two minutes later following a breakaway goal by Costa, which was assisted by junior Byron Peabody.

Neither team had many other scoring chances during the final ten minutes of the first quarter.

It began raining during the second quarter. The Mustangs did put some

pressure on the Panthers defense. Sophomore David Pagan and

had a couple of shots on goal, but the score remained tied.

"The defense was solid back Remillard said. "They locked it down after allowing an line. early goal.

Evan Hershowitz, sophomore Nathan Bigda, Kotowski, and

It stopped raining with less than two minutes remaining in the first half and that's when the Panthers took the lead for the first

The go-ahead goal was scored on a low shot by Chartier which skipped on the wet grass past junior goalie Colby Duggan. Costa was credited with the as-

Duggan was replaced in goal by sophomore Brayden Pratt at the start of the fourth quarter. The two Monson keepers combined to make ten saves in the game.

Following a scoreless third quarter, Costa scored his second goal of the contest in the middle of the fourth quarter.

"I think Brandyn has scored ten goals in only seven games this season," Remillard said. "He uses his speed to get behind the back

The Panthers insurance goal The members of the Panthers was assisted by sophomore Ausdefensive unit are sophomore tin Degnan.

# **Turleysports** Athlete of the Month

**Joe Chartier Palmer High School** 

Chartier had one of Palmer's goals in their win over rival Monson on Nov. 12.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your

friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your com-

#### **GARDEN** I from page 4

The Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issues the guidance high schools are using to play sports currently. The EEA was scheduled to release guidance for winter sports to be considered by the various subcommittees of the MIAA Board of Directors. Stratton, who is on the Sports Medicine Committee, said votes on the guidelines are ongoing.

Stratton said the PVIAC will re-evaluate the bubble leagues schools will play in. They were geographically-based, but the number of schools participating in the winter season could change. He also said with a limited number of ice hockey teams, those bubble leagues will look much differ-

#### **TRACK** I from page 7

Agawam High School track coach Dan Pryce. "We would have to modify a few of the events, but it would work really well."

During indoor track, the running events including the 55 meter, 300 meter, 600 meter, and 1000 meter runs. The one mile and two miles are events done in both the indoor and outdoor seasons, as well as the long jump, high jump, and shot put. The outdoor season has 100, 200, 400, and 800 meter races in comparison.

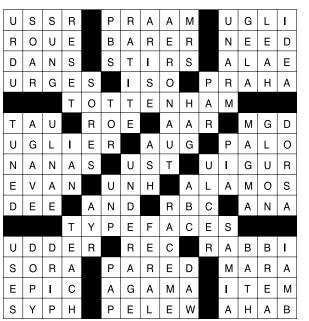
Pryce said while there is nothing official, there is a lot of good feedback among the indoor track coaches in the region to move indoor track to the bubble season so competitors can take part in the sports.

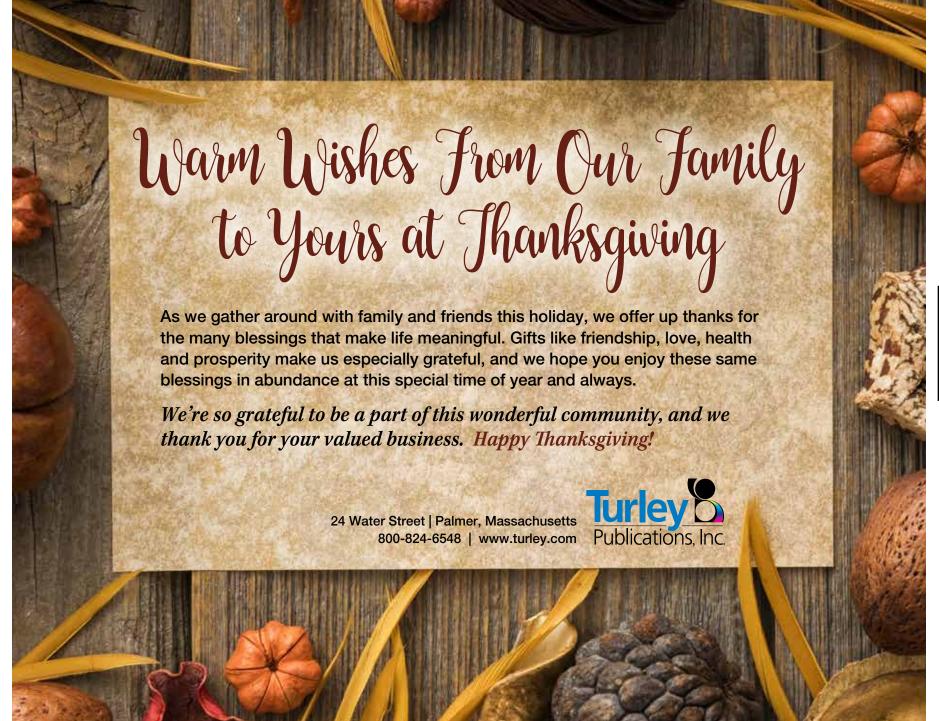
There is potential competition in the sport if it moves to the bubble season. Football is currently scheduled to be the main sport during the bubble season, set to go from Feb. 22 to mid-April. Because football is normally a fall sport and indoor track a winter sport, some students may have to choose one sport over the other if they are normally involved in both. Cheerleading is also currently supposed to be part of the Fall 2 season.



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#### **DEATH NOTICES**

Audrey Clark, 89

Service: 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, in Four Corners Cemetery, Palmer.

Toxey A. McClain, 74 Died: Nov. 16, 2020

Michael David Paugh, 61 Died: Nov. 12, 2020 Services were private

The Journal Register

#### OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & **Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

> Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

# Police/Fire

**Police Logs** 

#### **PALMER**

The Palmer Police Department responded to four arrests or arrests for summons from Nov. 17 to Nov. 20. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 17

Damien Michael Gouvin, 26, of 1476 N. Main St., Palmer, was arrested at 8:20 p.m., on North Main Street in Palmer, for an arrest warrant.

Zack T. Mazzocca, 30, of 4114 High St., Thorndike, was arrested at 9:28 p.m., on High Street in Thorndike, for three arrest warrants.

James Edward West, 22, of 370 Springfield St., Three Rivers, was arrested at 10:47 p.m., on Main Street in Thorndike, for an arrest warrant.

#### MONSON

The Monson Police Department responded to five arrests or arrests for summons from Nov. 8 to Nov. 14. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Trayne R. Egerton, 35, of 223

Lamont St., Springfield, was arrested at 6:51 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle; speeding; attaching plates to a motor vehicle; operating an uninsured motor vehicle; operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended

#### Saturday, Nov. 14

Joseph Andrew Wilson, 38, of 21 High St., Monson, was arrested at 1:21 a.m., for a fugitive from justice on court warrant.

### Audrey Clark, 89

PALMER — Audrey Clark, devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother and aunt, has passed at the fantastic age of 89 at Baystate Medical Center, just a week shy of her 90th birthday.

Audrey was born to Ellsworth M. Royce and Ethel (Godfrey) Royce on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 1930 in Ware. Her mother didn't even get to eat! Audrey was their first born and later would be joined by a sister, Eleanor June (Royce) Dooley having since predeceased Audrey.

Audrey was married at 19 to Sidney W. Clark on Jan. 13, 1950. They celebrated their 70th anniversary earlier this year before Sidney's passing. They made their home in Palmer in the house that they built along with his brothers and the home they resided in until their deaths. Here they raised their two children, Beth and Maureen.

Audrey was mostly a stay-athome mom, for which her daughters greatly benefited, making wonderful memories by doing so much for and with them. She was a devoted grandmother to Clark and Caryn, often appearing at their sporting events, enjoying the competition and supporting them. She spoiled them and step-granddaughter, Corinne, by making them their own special

treats or meals "only the way Grammy can." Audrey also took the time for herself. Early on, she worked for Jarvis and Jarvis for many years in the office, and at times, at McKee's Fish Market.

Additionally, Audrey was very active in her church as treasurer,

secretary, and helping her aunt produce the weekly Sunday bulletin, and participated in organizing the often held church dinners. When needed, she also sang in the church choir. She was involved for over 30 years with the Wednesday Night Women's Bowling League in Palmer, as well as years with the Wing Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in the gift shop, chairing the Tree of Love Campaign, organizing annual aux dinners and coordinate the Madame Alexander Doll raffle fundraiser.

Those whose paths crossed with Audrey's were blessed with her smile, her laughter, her sincerity, her kindness, her warmth, and her genuine liking of them. She enjoyed a good joke and card game, too, especially pitch and cribbage with family and friends at the Warren Senior Center. Later on, she became a fan of baseball, especially the Red Sox, watching



with Sidney with armchair commenting.

Audrey leaves behind her daughters, Beth Ann (Clark) Zelazo and her husband Thomas of Palmer, their children Clark Zelazo and his wife Stephanie (Smith) of Springfield, and Caryn Zelazo of Monson: Mau-

reen Clark and her life companion, David Gilman of Adams, and his daughter, Corinne. She leaves her niece, Susan (Dooley) La-Fromboise and her husband, David, of Monson; and many, many great great nieces and nephews of the Clark and Royce families. She also leaves many cousins in the area, Connecticut and Canada; and her lifelong friend, Margaret Backus.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband, Sidney W. Clark in January.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, in Four Corners Cemetery, Palmer. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Baystate Wing Auxiliary or the Warren Senior Center.

For more information or to leave a memory, please visit beersandstory.com.

#### Fire Logs

#### **PALMER**

The Palmer Fire Department responded to seven calls from Nov. 18 to Nov. 22.

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 8:27 a.m., the department provided medical assistance on Shearer Street. The department returned to service 8:47 a.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, 3:32 a.m., the department provided station coverage on Wales Road in Brimfield. The department returned to service at 6:39 a.m.

On Friday, Nov. 20, at 9:11 a.m., the department provided medical assistance on Shearer Street. The department returned to service at 9:28 .m.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3:37 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Beacon Street. The department returned to service at 4:06 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, 4:37 p.m., the department provided station coverage on Boston Road in Wilbraham. The department returned to service at 5:29 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, at 5:52 p.m., the department conducted a carbon monoxide investigation on Allen Street. The department retuned to service at 6:25 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, at 10:03 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Walters Way. The department returned to service at 10:38 a.m.

#### THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to four calls from Nov. 17 to Nov. 21.

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6:37 a.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Sasur Street. The department returned to service at 6:55

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 8:45 a.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Meadow Lane. The department returned to service at 8:59 a.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 10:29 a.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:35 a.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7:39 p.m., the department responded to an odor of gas on Oak Street. The

department returned to service 8:20

#### BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to zero calls from Nov. 17 to Nov. 22.

#### MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to 17 EMS calls and four fire calls from Nov. 16 to Nov. 22.

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6:13 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Main Street. The department returned to service at 6:22 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7:49 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Bridge Street. The department returned to service at 8:04 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, at 2:14 a.m., the department provided mutual aid for a structure fire in the town of Wales. The department returned to service at 5:14 a.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, at 5:00 p.m., the department responded to a report of smoke in the area of Peck Brothers Road. The department returned to service at 5:15 p.m.

### Toxey McClain, 74

WALES — Toxey A. Mc-Clain, 74, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, Nov. 16,

Toxey was born Jan. 23, 1946, in Hartford, Conn., to the Clain II and his wife late Jack Creighton and Alice (Johnson) Champ Furlong. For many years Toxey lived in Ellington, Conn., where she raised her family and worked in the Ellington School District as a cook. Upon retirement she enjoyed traveling the country with her husband Ron in their RV. Often she and Ron could be found listening to classic rock. Toxey had a green thumb and enjoyed cooking and sharing her harvest bounty.

Toxey leaves he beloved husband of 54 years, Ronald C. Mc-Clain and their children, Ronald C. Mc-Elaine Sullo of Silver Spring, Md., and Taunya Foley and her husband Jeff of East Hartford; two grand-

daughters Ashley Foley and her partner Rolando Vazquez of Manchester and Kelsie Gonzalez and her husband Michael of Meriden, Conn.; great granddaughter Sofia; her home health aid and caregiver, Tara, and her beloved cat Vegas and their extended family from the Handi-



She was predeceased by her mother Alice Furlong, stepfather Raymond Champ and a daughter, Jessica McClain. Arrangements have been entrusted

capped Travel Club.

to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. A gathering of family and friends

will be held at a later time.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Stroke Association/ Division of the American Heart Association. For on-line condolences please visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

#### **DEMORE** I from page 1

list is through Facebook. Some of larger cities because some services the others want to kind of do the outreach to the family themselves because of HIPAA, (Health Insurance and Probability Act of 1996) and then have the family reach out

When Demore's assisted families in need for Easter, it became apparent to them how many local residents needed assistance. JoAnn said families in small towns do not

"Being away from home, espe-

cially this year, with all of the stuff

going on with COVID, makes it a

lot harder," said Craven. "Having

that little bit of home come to you

such as Dawn Crossman-Perez,

shared similar sentiments. Her three

Parents of these recipients,

**CARE** I from page 1

is definitely nice."

"The only ones I can really get as much attention as those in almost becomes addictive." "are not as available in rural areas."

> The feedback from the community helps drive these outreach "We didn't realize when we

first started how much need there was," JoAnn said.

We did not realize the scope of it in this area. Sometimes you're insulated from it but when you start

seeing the people you're helping, it

Crossman, are all serving in the

United States Air Force and are all

"It makes it tough," said Cross-

"I do worry that they're alone

How to help/sign up for assis-

Demore's is now getting ready to help residents in need enjoy a brighter Christmas. Anyone interested in receiving meals or supporting the outreach with a donation can message Demore's on their Facebook page or call 413-283-5238.

er. They love the care packages. It

committee, visit the Monson Mil-

itary Care Package Drive's Face-

To learn more about the

gives them a little piece of home."

### Michael David Paugh, Oct. 8, 1959 - Nov. 12, 2020

Michael David Paugh, age 61, of Richmond, Va., died on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020.

He was born in Phillipsburg, N.J. on Oct. 8, 1959, and lived in Easton, Pa., West Brookfield, Mass., Palmer, Mass., and for the last 40 years in Richmond.

He leaves two daughters, Lauren Paugh and her fiance Ryan Burgess of Glen Allen, Va., and Amanda and her husband, Lt. Eric Daly of Fredericksburg, Va., and is survived by his former wife, Deborah Sheehan-Paugh of Richmond. In addition, he leaves a brother, James III and his wife Patricia of Worcester, a sister, Kathleen Scarglia of Wilbraham, and sister, Jennifer and her husband, Steven Browne of Glenwood, Md. He also leaves nephews and nieces James IV and wife Nicola, Todd, and Matthew and wife Amy, Stacy Ashford and Gabrielle and Olivia Browne as well as grand nephews and nieces. His father, James Jr., mother, L. Patricia, and brother Thomas predeceased him.

He was President of Paugh Surgical, Inc. of Richmond for 23 years building it to an \$18.5 million company, earning Distributor of Year Honors from

numerous companies and on multiple occasions. He represented well over 30 manufacturers in the highly complex field of neuro/spinal surgery markets with seats on the advisory boards of Zeiss and Mizuho Distributors.

Prior to founding his own business, he worked for Connell Neurosurgical and Leica Micro Systems.

He graduated from Palmer High School in 1977 and College of the Holy Cross in 1981 before earning an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from UMASS-Amherst in 1984.

Boston and Holy Cross sports were always a favorite for him and he attended Super Bowl XXXIX.

The love he had for his daughters and family was unmatched. Always outgoing, he was generous and friendly with nearly everyone and leaves several professional friends around the country.

His daughters remember their father with the song "But-

terfly Kisses" by Bob Carlisle: 'There's two things I know



for sure: She was sent here from heaven and she's daddy's little girl. As I drop to my knees by her bed at night She talks to Jesus and I close my eyes and I thank God for all of the joy in my

Oh, but most of all For butterfly kisses after bedtime prayer; sticking little white flowers all up in her hair; "Walk beside the pony, Daddy, it's my first ride." "I know the cake looks funny, Daddy, but I sure tried." Oh, with all that I've done wrong, I must have done something right To deserve a hug every morning and butterfly kisses at night."

Due to Covid 19, the funeral services were private and under the direction of Beers & Story of Palmer. Interment was in St. Thomas Cemetery in Palmer.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of his mother to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at www.pancan.org. For more information or to leave a memory, please visit beersandstory.com.

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# Food Bank of Western Mass anticipates winter rush Public notices

By Dalton Zbierski Staff Writer

HATFIELD - At all times of the year, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts serves as an invaluable community resource. With temperatures plummeting and COVID-19 case counts rising on a regional scale, the Hatfield facility enters the winter prepared to play a more crucial role than it ever has before.

"It is a challenge, but we do have a warehouse full of food," said Lillian Baulding, the Food Bank's communications and engagement officer. "We have done a lot of pivoting since COVID started and are meeting the needs. The entire team has pitched in. A lot of people are doing work that they weren't doing before. They're taking on extra assignments, and it's just getting done."

The Food Bank distributes much needed food to member agencies spread throughout Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties.

Established in 1982, the Food Bank serves dozens of independent pantries, meal sites, shelters and food assistance programs in western Massachusetts. The operation is a member of Feeding America, a national network of more than 200

During the pandemic, the Food Bank's demand has increased dramatically. Baulding detailed the added responsibility that the facility has assumed over the past eight months.

"We have seen an increase in the amount of people who have needed our services because of COVID," said Baulding. "Many people have come in for the first time. They may have never thought that they'd ever need assistance from the Food Bank or a food pantry but they do because of job losses."

Baulding credited the community's support for keeping the Food Bank alive and thriving during a challenging year. The massive 35,000 square-foot warehouse that employs 45 serves as the headquarters for the entire operation and is currently abuzz with energy and pro-

"People are working double-time,



Brian Longto operates a piece of machinery inside the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Hatfield during the COVID-19 pandemic.

from the pickers who pick the food and put it together for our member agencies to the volunteers who are in our sorting room who are actually putting boxes of food together. It's really incredible," said Baulding.

One of the greatest obstacles that the pandemic has placed before the Food Bank is a dwindling amount of food donations. COVID-19 protocols prohibit the facility from accepting most food donations from the public.

For residents looking to contribute, monetary donations are highly significant and much needed. Baulding noted that monetary donations have allowed the Food Bank to make up for absence of food donations that it had been previously accustomed to receiving.

"It's critical because for every dollar donated, we can provide four full, healthy meals," said Baulding. "That means one individual could get four meals, and it's not just one part of the meal; it's the entire meal, or a family of four could have a dinner. It's critical, particularly at this time where so many of our neighbors are out of work or maybe their hours have been cut dramatically."

As temperatures continue to decrease, nutritious meals become more essential. On a regular basis, the Food Bank's Mobile Food Bank visits 27 locations in western Massachusetts, distributing healthy food items.

'We want to help people stay healthy and strong as they are going through this difficult time," said Baulding.

On Nov. 23 and 24, the Food Bank will participate in Monte's March, a 43mile masked march that will begin in Springfield and finish in Greenfield, covering three counties. Monte Belmonte, a radio personality for 93.9 WRSI, leads the annual initiative.

will push empty shopping carts along the entirety of the route to raise awareness about hunger in the region and funds to stop it in its tracks. This year, the fundraiser aims to raise \$365,000, which is the equivalent of 4,000 meals per day for an entire calendar year.

"We pivoted this year, and it's going to work. It's going to be on a smaller scale, and we're asking people to donate what they can," said Baulding. "If they can't come out and march with us, perhaps they can virtually march online, or they can donate on those two days or online as well."

To register for Monte's March or donate to the Food Bank, visit foodbankw-Those who participate in the march ma.org/events/montes-march11.

#### Wales

**Conservation Commission** In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission for (RDA) filed by Lori M Whitman for the replacement of a damaged culvert at 216 Union Rd Wales, MA 01081.

This will be a VIRTUAL hearing on Thursday, December 17, 2020 6:00 **P.M.** Email or call Wales ConCom for access location. 11/26/2020

#### MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and execu-

tion of the power of sale contained in a Mortgage given by Judson Garrett and Rebecca Garrett to North Brookfield Savings Bank dated September 25, 2003 and recorded with the Hampden Registry of Deeds in Book 13618 Page 143, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold a public auction on the premise known as 56 Kimball Hill Road, Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 11:00 am in the forenoon, all and singular the premises described in

The Land in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

said mortgage, to wit;

The land in Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, at the southwesterly junction of Kimball Hill Road and Joanie Drive being Lots 35, 36 & 37 on a plan of Lake View Estates by

Igor VeschesloffLand Surveyor dated 3-2-67 revised 11-20-73 and filed with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans, 157, Pages 90 and 91, together bounded as follows:

Easterly by Kimball Hill Road in two courses 64.26 feet and 91.76 feet;

Southeasterly by Lot 47 on said plan, 134.01 feet; Southwesterly by Lot 48 and 49 on said plan, 118.48

Westerly by Lot 34 on said plan 208.22 feet:

Northerly by Joanie Drive 117.91 feet; and

Northeasterly by a curve at the junction of Joanie Drive and Kimball Hill Road 31.845 feet.

Subject to easement rights of New England Telephone and Telegraph Company et al under instrument dated July 24, 1959 recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 2698, Page 332.

Subject to easement rights of New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. and Mass Electric Company under instrument dated January 14, 1975, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 4099, Page 176.

Subject to building and use restrictions of record.

Being the same premises conveyed to Judson Garrett and Rebecca Garrett by deed of Dale A. Berthiaume and Amber R. Berthiaume dated September 24, 2003 and recorded herewith in Book

13618, Page 141. The above premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, mortgages, liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, unpaid taxes, municipal liens and other public taxes, assessments or liens, having priority over the mortgage described herein, if any.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or other terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder provided that the second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorney, Blaise P. Berthiaume, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder and title shall be conveyed to said

second highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.

TERMS OF SALE: Three Thousand Five Hundred (\$3,500.00) Dollars, cash or certified check will be required as a down deposit at the time and place of said foreclosure sale, and the balance of the purchase price is to be paid by cash or certified check within twenty (20) days thereafter at the office of Blaise P. Berthiaume, Esquire, 4 Elm Street, North Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NORTH BROOKFIELD SAVINGS BANK Present Holder of said Mortgage

Blaise P. Berthiaume, its Attorney Berthiaume & Berthiaume 4 Elm Street North Brookfield, MA 01535 11/26, 12/03, 12/10/2020

#### PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF MONSON

Vertex Tower Assets, LLC (the "Applicant") has applied for a Special Permit from the Town of Monson Planning Board to construct a Wireless Communications Facility including a 100' tall monopole style tower at Lakeside Drive, Tax Assessors Parcel 52-24, on land owned by Peter D. Martins and Lori S. Martins.

The Applicant will conduct a Visual Demonstration to illustrate the location and height of the proposed Facility by raising a balloon at and to the height of the proposed Facility. Said Visual Demonstration will be held SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2020 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm, weather and wind conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on December 5, 2020, the Visual Demonstration will be rescheduled until Sunday December 6, 2020, wind and weather conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on December 5, 2020 and December 6, 2020, the Visual Demonstration will be rescheduled until Saturday, December 12, 2020 or Sunday December 13, 2020, wind and weather conditions permitting. If you have any questions concerning said Visual Demonstration, please con-

tact the Town of Monson Planning Board, kbaker@

monson-ma.gov OR Francis

D. Parisi, Esq., Parisi Law

Associates, P.C., PHONE: (401) 447-8500, EMAIL:

fparisi@plapc.com. Please

check the Parisi Law

Associates, P.C. website

www.plapc.com after noon

on the day before the sched-

uled date(s) to determine if

the balloon will be up the

following day.

11/19, 11/26/2020

**Town of Monson Planning Board** 

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with

Chapter 40A, M.G.L. s11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:05 P.M. remotely, on the application of Vertex Tower Assets, LLC for Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit as provided by Section 6.14, Wireless Communications Facilities Regulations of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes to install a 100' tall monopole style wireless communications tower at a parcel on Lakeside Dr, Monson, MA, Map 052, Parcel 024, owned by Peter D Martins & Lori S Martins, in the Rural Residential district. The parcel is approx. 52 acres in size. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board and available for viewing during regular office hours or at: https://www.monson-ma. gov/planning-board

Participation info: Login: https://zoom.us/ /94432329836?pwd=V11-. LYkpUS1ZhYmÑxTy9Taz-N3N0Y3UT09

**Dial:** 1.646.558.8656 Meeting ID: 944 3232

**Password:** 551038 Craig Sweitzer, Chairman 11/26, 12/03/2020

### Gobi advocates for 'Healthy Incentives Program' during budget debate

BOSTON — Senator Anne Gobi creasing access to locally grown fruits (D-Spencer) rose during budget debate on Nov. 17 to deliver an impassioned speech on the success of the Healthy Incentives Program and the need for expanded services to combat food insecurity in the Commonwealth.

"HIP has proven to be one of the Commonwealth's most successful and welcome programs. The pandemic has shown gaps in our food supply chain and this program has helped to fill that gap by helping families and farmers, said Gobi, the co-chair of the Massachusetts Food Systems Caucus and the senate chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agri-

Launched in 2017, HIP provides a 100% incentive – a dollar-for-dollar match - for each SNAP dollar spent on targeted fruits and vegetables purchased at farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and Community Supported Agriculture programs statewide. By inand vegetables for SNAP clients, the program benefits family and community health, and support farms and the local economy, Gobi said.

According to gobi's office, since its inception 85,000 families have earned HIP incentives, purchasing \$19.5 million in local foods that directly benefited more than 200 farms in the state. SNAP sales have increased by 1250% from 2016-2019 thanks to HIP, which has generated 40-60 new jobs in the farming sector. Estimates show that each dollar spent results in an additional \$1.12 in local economic impact as farmers contribute back to the local economy. Funding for this program has increased consistently over the last three years as it remains one of the most popular DTA

Funding for the program this year is \$13 million, doubling FY20 appropria-

### Veterans history project requested

BOSTON — The Massachusetts State Senate deliberated and passed the fiscal year 2021 budget Nov. 18, including in the final version of the bill an amendment submitted by Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) to allocate funds establishing a Massachusetts Veterans Oral History Project for the programming, collection, preservation and maintenance of the histories of Massachusetts Veterans and Gold Star Families.

"As the daughter of a World War II veteran, there are so many questions I should have asked my dad about his experiences and never did," Gobi, a mem-Means and former Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs, said.

"I am so glad to support and partner with veterans groups who will record the stories that are such an important part of our American story."

The MVOHP is a unique statewide project that will capture, document, preserve, and protect the individual oral histories of those men and women from the Commonwealth who served honorably and well in the armed forces of their country. Gobi's office said the project will compile the oral histories of Gold Star families, and will create important historical resources for research, teaching, and public programs while at the same time providing veterans and their families with permanent recordings of ber of the Senate Committee on Ways & veterans and their experiences all in conjunction with the Massachusetts Nation-

> al Guard Museum and Archives. The amendment submitted appropriates \$50,000 towards the project.

#### **BUDGET** I from page 5

ic, impacting children, adults and seniors local aid that provides cities and towns alike, and the prioritizes access to food resources across the Commonwealth, gobi's office said.

#### **Food insecurity investments include:**

• \$30 million for the Massachusetts

Emergency Food Assistance Program • \$13 million in Healthy Incentives Programs to ensure vulnerable households have continued access to food options during the pandemic

• \$1.2 million for Project Bread to support the Child Nutrition Outreach Program (CNOP) and the FoodSource Hotline

Regional aid includes increased funding for Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) to \$94 million to ensure that commuters, students, seniors and people with disabilities have access to reliable public transportation during this time of critical need. Along with traditional local aid, the Senate's budget level funds payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for state-owned land to \$30 million. PILOT funding has been a beneficial source of last week.

with additional resources to support core public services.

#### Local investments include:

• \$1.129 billion for unrestricted general government aid to support community investments in education, health care, public safety and roads and bridges

• \$32.6 million for the Board of Library Commissioners, \$11.5 million for regional library local aid, \$12 million for municipal libraries and \$4.4 million for technology and automated resources

• \$18.2 million for the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support local arts, culture and creative economy initiatives

• \$17 million for local Councils on Aging to strengthen programs and services in senior centers in communities across the state.

A Conference Committee will now convene to reconcile the differences between the Senate budget and the version passed by the House of Representatives

Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts'

public notice web site to search all notices in

Massachusetts newspapers.

### 66 **CLUES ACROSS** 69. Whale ship captain 41. NW Chinese people 33. Subatomic particle 42. "Westworld" actress \_\_\_ 1. Cold War player 34. Part of an organism 5. Flat-bottomed sailboat Rachel Wood **CLUES DOWN** 36. 007's creator

10. Jamaican tangelo 43. Northeastern US university 14. Debauched man 44. Poplar trees (Spanish) 15. Less covered 45. Hip hop legend Kool 16. Require to live 17. Patrick and Aykroyd are 46. Not or 47. Corpuscle count (abbr.) 18. Mixes 48. Comedienne Gasteyer 19. Insurance claim expenses 49. Fonts 20. Tries to persuade 52. Female cattle mammary 22. Equal (prefix) gland 23. Czech name for Prague 55. Down time 24. London soccer team 56. Spiritual leader 27. Greek letter 60. Small brown and gray 30. Small Eurasian deer American rail 31. Swiss river 61. Trimmed by cutting 32. Miller beer 63. NY Giants owner 35. Less appealing 64. A long narrative poem

65. Old World lizard

66. Product for sale

67. Shut Your Pie Hole (abbr.)

68. Pacific Island country

37. 8th month (abbr.)

39. Grandmothers

40. American time

38. Alto, California city

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3. Made musical sounds

26. Witch

46. Scottish port 47. Flower cluster 49. Instruct 27. Adjusted 28. Succulent plant 29. Forearm bones

50. Untamed 51. Moth genus 52. Utilizes 53. Foolish 54. Fall in small drops 57. A place to get clean 58. La \_\_ Tar Pits 59. Metrical foot 61. Semiliquid food 62. Small crow 32. Hot fluid in the earth's crust

37. Burned material residue

43. Historic railroad company

38. Brain layer: \_\_ mater

40. Unable to partake

41. Lesion

44. Basics

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#### **Rayah Marie Bassett**

October 21, 2020

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Country Journal ■ Ware River News ☐ The Holyoke Sun ☐ The Wilbraham-Journal Register **Hampden Times** 

Sentinel

□ Town Reminder

■ Barre Gazzette

Chicopee Register



**Deadline for photos and forms is** 

Friday, December 4, 2020

#### FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER **DEADLINES:** Quabbin & Suburban — *Friday at Noon* MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

**CATEGORY:** 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 Base Price \$26.00 21 22 Base Price \$27.00 23 24 Base Price \$26.50 Base Price \$28.00 25 Base Price \$29.50 Base Price \$30.00 Base Price \$29.00 29 Base Price 32 \$31.50 Base Price \$30.50 Base Price \$31.00 31 Base Price \$34.00 33 Base Price \$33.00 Base Price 38 37 Base Price \$35.50 Base Price \$36.00 Base Price \$35.00

Phone: \_ Address: State: Zip:\_\_ Town: Number of Weeks: X per week rate = \$\_\_ Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover Cash □ Check# \_\_\_ Card #: Exp. Date \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_CVV \_\_\_\_ Amount of charge:

HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON Quabbin **Village Hills** Circulation: 50,500 Suburban Residential Circulation: 59,000 Hilltowns Circulation: 9,800 Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THR

KEE	: ZUNES.		
	First ZONE base price _		Includes — additional words
	Add a second ZONE _	\$10.00	Run my ad in the
	Add a third ZONE _	\$ <b>5.00</b>	following ZONE(s):
	Subtotal _		_ Quabbiii
	x Number of Weeks _		Suburban
	TOTAL Enclosed _		Hilltowns

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!** 

# SHOP SMALL

# SHOP LOCAL

# SHOP WARE

Drawings Give-A-Ways

Saturday, Nov. 28th & Sunday, Nov. 29th

**Treats** 

SALES!

SALES!

SALES!

Win a Gift Basket Enter At Any Of These Shoppes



# Thank you for keeping it local!



Cluett's



Clay Works



Dioguardi Jewelers



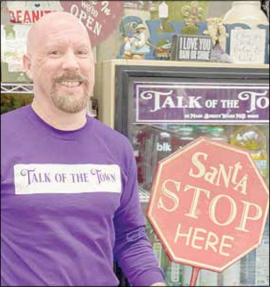
Feel In Great Nutrition



Lost and Found



Nat Falk



Talk of the Town



This N That 2



Wilton's Children Store



Art Works



Otto Florist & Gifts



NAPA

Mark Your Calendars For The Ware Main Street Stroll! Saturday, December 5th - Downtown Ware

